

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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/066 W

-----118572 221814Z /45

R 201411Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2480  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2214

E.O. QQYTWC XGDS-1  
TAGS: PDIP PINR NL  
SUBJECT: NEW NETHERLANDS AMBASSADORS TO BELGIUM AND SPAIN

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT JAN HERMAN ODO INSINGER WILL BE THE NEW NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM AND THAT LOUSI JOACHIM GOEDHARD WILL SUCCEED INSINGER AS NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN.
  2. ODO INSINGER WAS BORN JULY 27, 1918, IN BAARN. HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM UTRECHT UNIVERSITY. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER BARONESS MACHTELD S.H. TAETS VAN AMERONGEN VAN RENSWOUDE. THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN.
  3. AFTER COMPLETING HIS EDUCATION, INSINGER WORKED FOR A SHORT TIME IN A FAMILY OWNED BANK AND FROM 1943-45 AS SECRETARY TO THE MAYOR OF ZEIST. HE JOINED THE DUTCH FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1946. HIS POSTS INCLUDE COPENHAGEN (1946-48), THE MINISTRY (1949-51), TEHERAN (1951-52), PARIS (1952-57), CANBERRA (1957-61), BONN (1962-66), PARIS (1966-67), BRUSSELS (NATO) (1967-68), THE MINISTRY (1968-75) AND MADRID SINCE 1974 UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO BRUSSELS.
  4. ACCORDING TO BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, INSINGER IS REPUTEDLY INCLINED TO BE SOMEWHAT POMPOUS, OSTENTATIIOUSLY SELF-ASSURED AND PREEMPTORY. AT TIMES HIS HIGH INTELLIGENCE IS
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OBSURED BY HIS PENCHANT FOR TALKING AT LENGTH AND WITHOUT MUCH INHIBITION. IN NEGOTIATIONS, INSINGER IS SAID TO HAVE USED UNPLEASANTNESS, SHARPLY NEGATIVE RESPONSES AND EVEN RUDENESS TO GET HIS WAY, PARTICULARLY WITH EAST EUROPEANS. WHILE INSINGER IS FUNDAMENTALLY ORIENTED TOWARD NATO AND THE UN, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, COMING FROM BONN AFTER FOUR YEARS AT ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, HE REPORTEDLY NEVER GOT "WITH IT" AS DCM FOR THE DUTCH NATO MISSION

AND REMAINED IN THAT POSITION ONLY A YEAR BEFORE RETURNING TO THE MINISTRY. INSINGER HAS SAID HE ASKED TO BE MOVED TO ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT, BUT THE TRANSFER MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY AT HIS INITIATIVE SINCE IT RESULTED IN HIS BEING PLACED IN A QUITE DIFFERENT FIELD OF ACTIVITY--CULTURAL AFFAIRS. HE LATER BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN SERVICE AFFAIRS UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN.

5. INSINGER IS A GOOD-LOOKING MAN ABOUT 6 FT TALL AND WEIGHS ABOUT 190 LBS. HE HAS DARK HAIR, WEARS GLASSES AND DRESSES CONSERVATIVELY. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, GERMAN AND FRENCH. DESPITE HIS SOMEWHAT ARROGANT MANNER, HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE FRIENDLY AFTER ONE GETS TO KNOW HIM, AND HIS WIFE CAN BE RELAXED AND CHARMING. BOTH HIS ATTRACTIVE WIFE AND HE ARE VERY SOCIALLY INCLINED AND MAKE ANIMATED AND ENTERTAINING GUESTS THAT ARE AN ASSET TO ANY SOCIAL GATHERING. MRS INSINGER HAS BEEN HEARD TO REMARK THAT, BECAUSE SHE HAS NO CHILDREN, SHE IS THE "PERFECT DIPLOMAT'S WIFE." THE INSINGERS ARE MEMBERS OF PROMINENT AND OLD DUTCH FAMILIES.

6. EMBASSY MADRID MAY WISH TO ADD ITS ASSESSMENT OF INSINGER'S TOUR IN SPAIN.

7. LOUIS GOEDHARD HAS BEEN NAMED TO SUCCEED INSINGER AS NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, COMING--AS DID INSINGER--FROM A TOUR AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MFA WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL AFFAIRS. GOEDHARD WAS BORN JUNE 16, 1921, IN THE HAGUE. AS A CHILD HE WAS TAKEN TO BUENOS AIRES BY HIS PARENTS AND ATTENDED PUBLIC SCHOOLS THERE, FOLLOWED BY THREE YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES. DURING WORLD WAR II HE SERVED  
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WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN GREAT BRITAIN. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER PATRICIA (PATTI) ALBERT, WHO IS GERMAN BY ORIGIN AND WHOSE FAMILY STILL RESIDES NEAR DUSSELDORF. THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN.

8. GOODHARD JOINED THE DUTCH FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1947. HIS POSTS INCLUDE THE MINISTRY (1947-48, BERLIN (1948-50), BONN (1950), MOSCOW (1950-53), TOKYO (1954-56), THE MINISTRY (1956-58), NEW YORK (UN) (1958-62), HOLLANDIA, NEW GUINEA (1972-62), THE MINISTRY (1963-66), ROME (1966-72) SANTIAGO (1972-75) AND THE MINISTRY SINCE 1975, FIRST AS PERSONNEL DIRECTOR AND LATER (1977) AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO BE THE NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TO MADRID.

9. GOEDHART HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE IN NEGOTIATION AND DEALING WITH FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES. HE WAS THE LAST DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE TO LEAVE NEW GUINEA DURING THE TRANSFER OF THAT DUTCH TERRITORY TO INDONESIA. HE WAS AMBASSADOR TO CHILE DURING THE OVERTHROW OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE, AND THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT HE COMPORTED HIMSELF WELL AND COURAGEOUSLY DURING THE DIFFICULT AND DISAGREEABLE PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED. HE WAS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE THEN US AMBASSADOR, DAVID POPPER. IN HIS WORK HE IS SMOOTH AND VERY DIRECT ALTHOUGH HE TENDS TO BE IMPATIENT WITH PETTINESS AND SHODDY WORK.

10. THE GOEDHARDS THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THEIR THREE YEARS IN NEW

YORK WHILE HE WAS POSTED TO THE UN. THEY ARE AN ATTRACTIVE COUPLE AND ARE HIGHLY POPULAR AMONG THE DUTCH AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES WHEREVER THEY ARE POSTED. BOTH ARE RELAXED, KIND AND PLEASANT AND CIRCULATE EASILY AT ALL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. HE IS AN AVID AND GOOD TENNIS PLAYER. GOEDHART IS STRIKINGLY GOOD LOOKING AND YOUTHFUL. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, SPANISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN IN ADDITION TO GOOD ITALIAN AND RUSSIAN. MRS GOEDHART SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, DUTCH AND GERMAN. BROWN

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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## Message Attributes

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